Chapter 33:
THE CREEPING CAT

IS THIS WHAT THE PIRATES OF THE BLACK CAT HAVE COME TO?

...

ARE YOU TELLING ME THESE CHILDREN HELD YOU UP!?

!!!

OOOO!!!

IS THAT IT, DJANGO!!?

TWITCH

YES, I SAID THAT ...

...!!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID!!

B-BUT ***YOU*** SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER IF WE LET THE KID GO...

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOUR DEFENSES TO BE SO FEEBLE!! I'M IN NO MOOD TO HEAR EXCUSES.

ANYONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO THWART US.

AND I WAS RIGHT! IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM!

CARE TO SAY THAT AGAIN, CAP'N KURO?

"FEEBLE," SAYS HE? US!?

HISS

!

AVAST!! BUTCHIE, SIAM, BELAY THAT!!

YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

MAYBE YOU **WERE** STRONG ... ONCE.

WE PLUNDERED COUNTLESS VILLAGES...

WE SENT MANY A RIVAL CREW DOWN TO SEE DAVY JONES!!

A LOT CAN CHANGE IN THREE YEARS!

WE AIN'T BEEN LIVING IN A FANCY MANSION, GETTING SLOW AND SOFT!

...?

!

THEY'RE GONNA MUTINY!?

YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF ACTION FOR THREE YEARS!

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT THE SHARP CLAWS OF THE MEOWBAN BROTHERS?

YOU'LL FIND WE AIN'T SO EASY TO KILL!

SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED!

WUP

...

THE TWO OF THEM AT ONCE.

EVEN CAP'N DJANGO CAN'T BEAT...

THEY GOT A POINT...

IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA KILL US ANYWAY, WE'LL KILL YOU FIRST!!!

!

SHIIING

YOU AIN'T OUR CAPTAIN NO MORE!!

SLASH!!

SWASH!

!?

ARE YOU GOING TO KILL?

WHO...

WHAT'S HIS WEAPON?

HE PULLED A...A... PUSSYFOOT MANEUVER!

...!!!

HOW'D HE GET BEHIND THEM!?

FWOOSH!!

HE GOT BEHIND US!!

!!

GRRR.

HE'S... NOT THERE.

HUH?

I *HAVE* GOTTEN SOFT.

DOOM!

TWITCH

YOU TWO WERE RIGHT.

PFTH!!

GASP!

ROOWW!!

BUT I HIRED YOU TO DO A JOB! AND THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE IS DEATH!!

OOOOO!

IT'S TRUE I'M NOT YOUR CAPTAIN ANYMORE...

...!!!

S-SO F-FAST...

!

WHAT DID YOU FOOLS EXPECT?

THOSE TWO WERE GETTING THE BETTER OF ZOLO... GRANTED, HE ONLY HAD ONE SWORD... BUT KLAHADORE'S PLAYING WITH THEM LIKE KITTENS!!

NOBODY EVER OUTMA-NEUVERED THE MEOWBAN BROTHERS BEFORE!!

YOU COULD GATHER 50 ASSASSINS, AND THEY'D ALL BE DEAD BEFORE THEY KNEW HE WAS NEAR.

WE'VE GOT TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN.

CAPTAIN KURO'S ***PUSSYFOOT MANEUVER...***

IS A TECHNIQUE FOR UNDETECT-ABLE MOVEMENT.

GULP

...!!!

WUP

HE PUSHES HIS GLASSES UP HIS NOSE LIKE THAT.

IT'S PROOF THAT HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN HOW TO KILL!!

WHEN I SAW HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THREE YEARS, AND SAW THAT HABIT OF HIS, I SHIVERED.

TO AVOID SCRATCHING HIS FACE WITH HIS "CAT CLAWS"...

HAVE SOFTENED MY HEART.

TWITCH

SHAKE

!

THREE YEARS OF INACTION...

ME EE-OW WW!!

YOWW!!

SKUNK!!

!

IF EVERYTHING ISN'T SORTED OUT BY THEN...

YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES.

WITH MY OWN HANDS.

I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU...

!!!!

HMPH.

FIVE MINUTES...

I DON'T WANNA DIE!!!

TREMBLE

SHAKE

SHIVER

FWOOSH

WE CAN FINISH THIS IN FIVE MIN-UTES!

FIVE MIN-UTES?

CRIPES! AND TO THINK THAT THIS DEVIL'S BEEN LIVING IN OUR MIDST FOR THREE YEARS!!

DO OH!

!

THEN WE CAN CHARGE RIGHT UP THE SLOPE!!!

NO PROB-LEM!! WE'LL JUST KILL HIM REAL QUICK!!

HE AIN'T SO FEAR-SOME!! HE'LL BE SHARK BAIT IN FIVE ***SECONDS***!!!

AYE, WE WERE BEATING HIM BEFORE!

UNG!!

YOUR SWORDS!!

!

KLANK!!

ZOLO!!

...

WHAT? NO "THANK YOU"?

FIRST YOU TRAMPLE ME, THEN YOU KICK MY SWORDS!?

WHY, YOU--

SAVED!!

THANKS!!

KRK!

CHAK CHAK!!

YES...

HEH HEH! YOU MAY HAVE MORE SWORDS NOW, BUT YOUR SKILL IS THE SAME!

SWASH!!

SCRATCH ATTACK!!

UNDER FIVE MINUTES, OKAY?

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, MEOWBAN BRO-THERS!!

ARE VERY DIF-FERENT THINGS.

SHING

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. ***WIELDING*** THREE SWORDS, AND FOLLOWING ***THE THREE-SWORD TECHNIQUE...***

FWIP...!

TIGER...

SLASH!!

...HUNH!!!

!!!

READ THIS WAY

WHA...!?

!!?

...!!?

WUMP..!!

!

FWIP!

OOO

HE BEAT THE MEOWBAN BRO-THERS!!!

GASP!! ONE SWORD-STROKE!!!

DOM

...TO TRASH YOU ALL!

CHONK

DON'T WORRY. IT WON'T EVEN TAKE ME FIVE MINUTES...

TRY IT.

WUP

HYPNOTIZE ME!!

C- CAPTAIN!! CAPTAIN DJANGO!

TH-THAT BILGE RAT! I'LL...I'LL SMASH YOUR BONES!

HUFF... HUFF... THAT...

DRIP DRIP

!

ALL THAT BLUBBER SAVED HIM...

...

HE'S STILL ALIVE. ***YOUR*** CLAWS NEED SHARP- ENING.

BOOM!

ROOWWR!!

SNAP

SNAP

WHAT'S HE GONNA BE LIKE WITH SUPER POWERS!?

THAT CAT'S A REAL NUISANCE! HE COULD ALREADY MAKE THE EARTH CRACK!

OOOOOO

OH, BOY! HYPNOTISM AGAIN!?

JUST LIKE HIM TO SLEEP THROUGH A MAJOR CRISIS!!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!! IF I CAN JUST WAKE LUFFY UP!!

HMM!?

TIP TIP TIP TIP

FWRRP

DIE!!

WIP-WIP-WIP

NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, YOU MEDDLING WENCH?

SPLOSH!

WAKE UP!!!

OOF!!

EVERYONE ELSE IS FIGHTING WITH SERIOUS INJURIES...AND LOOK AT *YOU*!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP

GASP!

NAMI!! HIT THE DECK!!

WIRWIPWIP!!

Q: *EI-CHAN, PLEASE GIVE US YOUR VITAL STATISTICS! (IS THAT YOUR REAL NAME?)*

A: IT'S MY REAL NAME. SO, UM...
I WAS BORN ON JANUARY 1, 1975. I'M A CAPRICORN, BLOOD TYPE A, YEAR OF THE RABBIT, AND I LIKE MOVIES. I'M TRYING TO DO MY BEST.

Q: ***THIS IS A QUESTION FOR ODA-SENSEI. WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO BE A MANGA ARTIST? AND WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DID YOU DO TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST? PLEASE TELL ME.***

A: FIRST OF ALL, I DECIDED TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST WHEN I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD. THE INSTANT I LEARNED THAT SUCH A JOB EXISTED IN THIS WORLD, I THOUGHT, "I DON'T HAVE TO WORK WHEN I GROW UP!" AND MADE THE DECISION. BUT IT WAS IN ABOUT 8TH GRADE THAT I STARTED DRAWING SERIOUSLY. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS? DOODLES AND SUCH. EVEN NOW, I DOODLE IN MY SKETCH PAD AS I THINK OF STORIES.

Q: ***THIS IS A HARDCORE FAN QUESTION, BUT IN MASAYA TOKUHIRO'S "MIZU NO TOMODACHI: KAPPA-MAN," VOLUME 1, PAGE 93, 4TH PANEL, WHY IS "EICHIRO ODA" WRITTEN THERE? WERE YOU WORKING ON IT AS AN ASSISTANT OR SOMETHING?***

A: WHOA, SCARY! YOU NOTICED. YES, I WAS AN ASSISTANT TO MR. TOKUHIRO. MY HISTORY AS AN ASSISTANT MANGA ARTIST INCLUDES WORK ON SHINOBU KAITANI'S "MIDORI YAMA POLICE GANG," MASAYA TOKUHIRO'S "TAACHAN: RULER OF THE JUNGLE" AND "KAPPA-MAN," AND NOBUHIRO WATSUKI'S "RUROUNI KENSHIN." I LEARNED MANY THINGS FROM THOSE THREE. SERIOUSLY, I RESPECT THEM BOTH AS MANGA ARTISTS AND AS PEOPLE.

Q: ***HOW MANY KINDS OF DEVIL FRUIT ARE THERE, AND WHAT KINDS ARE GOING TO SHOW UP IN THE FUTURE?***

A: AS FOR WHAT KINDS OF FRUIT WILL SHOW UP, I WANT YOU TO LOOK FORWARD TO DISCOVERING THEM IN THE STORIES. AS FOR HOW MANY KINDS THERE ARE IN ALL, I'VE HEARD A RUMOR THAT THERE ARE OVER 100...AND THAT A CERTAIN LOCATION IS CRAWLING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE POWERS OF THE DEVIL FRUIT.